

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe



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From Sacramento*

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Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem

Funding Solutions for the California Arts Council

The California Arts Council is a state agency which funds a variety of artistic projects that includes theater and performance arts, multicultural projects, arts education and music. These programs are valuable services to our schools, senior centers, homeless shelters, and other social institutions. However, they are now facing substantial funding reductions because of current fiscal crisis.

Californians have demonstrated that arts in education and the community are important to them. Because of this, I've introduced legislation (AB 1283) which would establish the California Arts Council Fund for taxpayer contribution designations on personal income tax returns.

This bill would add a line item tax contribution (referred to as a tax check-off) to personal income tax forms. If a taxpayer opted to contribute, this money would go towards the California Arts Council to augment programs in arts education, community or multicultural arts. AB 1283 gives Californians the opportunity to contribute to keeping arts in education, in our community, and in our lives.

For more information on this bill, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and search by bill number or author.

Speaker Wesson Visits San Diego



In May, Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson visited Christine Kehoe's San Diego office.

Domestic Partnership Forum

On Friday, I participated in The Center's panel discussion concerning the current legal status of same-sex relationships and pending legislation that, if passed, will grant much-needed equality and recognition. Here are some of the bill that were discussed:

- **AB 17** (Kehoe) state contractors - Prohibits a state agency from contracting with businesses that discriminate in providing employment benefits between an employee with a spouse and an employee with a registered domestic partner.
- **AB 205** (Goldberg) The Domestic Partners Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003 - Expands significantly the rights and responsibilities currently provided to registered domestic partners and their families to include nearly all the legal rights, benefits, responsibilities, duties, and obligations under state law currently available only to married couples.



Left, Kehoe speaks at the forum. Right, Kehoe and Geoffrey Kors of Equality California

The center hosted this event to provide a forum for San Diego's LGBT community to find out what legislative efforts are underway to promote equality under the law.

To read the text of the above-mentioned bills, you can go to www.leginfo.gov and search by bill number or author. For more information on The Center and the services they provide, go to <http://www.thecentersd.org/>.

Promoting Wireless Phone Safety

Wireless phones provide a safety net and sense of security for those who use them. Common uses are to report car accidents and crimes, and to call for help in an emergency. But of course, with the good comes the bad.

It is estimated that 12,000 accidents and 1.2 billion dollars in damages per year are attributed to wireless telephone use while driving. The *New York Times* reports that over 600 fatalities or more may occur each year from wireless telephone-related automobile accidents.

This week is National Wireless Safety Week. In the legislature there is a measure intended to increase wireless phone-use safety while driving. AB 45 (Simitian) would create an infraction for driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless phone, unless it is being used in a "hands free" manner.

To learn more about this bill, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and search by bill number or author.

Hillcrest Volunteer Scott Crowder

Scott Crowder is an active community member who serves as Treasurer to the Hillcrest Association. Scott is a loyal member of this association, which represents over 1200 businesses in the heart of Uptown and is the oldest business association in the City of San Diego.

In addition to being involved in the Hillcrest Association, Scott served as Co-Chair of the 2nd Annual Mardi Gras. Crowder volunteered about 10 hours a month to prepare for the event. Event proceeds are used to fund a youth scholarship program, improve the neighborhood through various projects such as the Business Ambassador program, extra street sweeping, and graffiti control.

Protecting San Diego's Canyons

The San Diego Canyon Campaign was formed by our local chapter of the Sierra Club to facilitate the establishment of local canyon protection groups and increase communication among the newly formed and already established canyon groups in San Diego. In recognition of the value of open space and the plants and animals in San Diego's canyon, the Canyon Coalition works to:

- Encourage and support new canyon groups
- Help groups protect and enhance canyon habitat
- Create opportunities for neighbors to enjoy the canyons and learn more about them
- Increase awareness of the Canyons' value

To learn how you can become involved in protecting San Diego's canyons, visit these websites:

- **San Diego Sierra Club** - <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/canyons/>.
- **Friends of Switzer Canyon**, "Preserving Native Biodiversity in the Heart of San Diego" - <http://www.n2.net/cschneid/index.html>.
- **Los Penasquitos Lagoon and Canyon** - <http://graham.sannet.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/penasq.shtml>
- **San Deguito River Park** - <http://www.sdrp.org/>

*Kehoe with
Hillcrest
Volunteer
Scott
Crowder
and his
son
Andrew.*



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